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AMSAT NEWS SERVICE
ANS-003

The AMSAT News Service bulletins are a free, weekly news and information service of AMSAT, The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. ANS publishes news related to Amateur Radio in Space including reports on the activities of a worldwide group of Amateur Radio operators who share an active interest in designing, building, launching and communicating through analog and digital Amateur Radio satellites.

The news feed on http://www.amsat.org publishes news of Amateur Radio in Space as soon as our volunteers can post it.

Please send any amateur satellite news or reports to: ans-editor(a)amsat.org

You can sign up for free e-mail delivery of the AMSAT News Service Bulletins via the ANS List; to join this list see: https://mailman.amsat.org/postorius/lists/ans.amsat.org/

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SB SAT @ AMSAT $ANS-003.01
ANS-003 AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 003.01
>From AMSAT HQ, WASHINGTON, DC
DATE 2021 January 3
To All RADIO AMATEURS
BID: $ANS-003.01

2021 Promises To Be A "Big" Year in Space

2021 is looking to be at least as big a space year as 2020. To name just a few highlights:

* Three missions (and a helicopter!) arrive at Mars (Tianwen-1, Hope Probe, Perseverance),

* The James Webb Space Telescope launches in October (it just completed final sunshield testing),

* NASA’s DART, Lucy, and CLPS landers start launching, the Vera Rubin Observatory should see first light, Starliner OPT-2 will hopefully go

smoothly, and China’s space station starts assembly.

* We also expect to see a number of firsts throughout the industry:
  + first orbital flights for Astra, Virgin Orbit (carrying 11 CubeSats scheduled to be deployed on this launch, including RadFxSat-2/Fox-1E), Firefly, and maaaaybe Starship, New Glenn, and Artemis I;
  + first orbital booster reuse from a non-SpaceX commercial space company (Rocket Lab);
  + the first fully private crewed mission to the ISS, launched by SpaceX and Axiom;

* And, the first two movies filmed in space, both to begin shooting on the ISS in the fall.

[ANS thanks The Orbital Index for the above information]

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that you include your name and call sign. You would be surprised how many inquiries we receive with just an email addressed that cannot be easily traced back to a member.

If you need to mail something to AMSAT during the month of January, please send it to AMSAT, PO Box 27, Washington DC 20044-0027. This is our permanent mailing address, and it requires a volunteer to travel. As such, we will only retrieve this mail once a week.

We will open a virtual office at some point in January. Our virtual office will include a telephone answering service and the ability to receive and electronically process mail. We will post our new, virtual telephone number and mailing address on the Member Portal and main website contact pages, as soon as this service is available.

We are excited about the opportunities these new communication challenges bring and understand there will be some hiccups along the way, but, ultimately, we are committed to providing you with an open and effective communications system. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

[ANS thanks Robert Bankston, KE4AL, AMSAT President, for the above information]

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AMSAT Satellite Communicators Award for making their first satellite QSO

Stephen Small, KC1NBI
Michael Pelaez, K4KMP
Kevin Addison, KM4RYN
Edward Campagnuolo, KN4ZAA
Timothy Stinson, AI5BE
Lowell Davis, WA2ZQX

AMSAT Communications Achievement Award

Michael Pelaez, K4KMP, #630
Robert Sours, K9UO, #631
Edward Campagnuolo, KN4ZAA, #632

AMSAT Sexagesimal Satellite Communications Achievement Award

Robert Sours, K9UO, #189

AMSAT Century Award

Adrian Liggins, VA3NNA, #56

AMSAT South Africa Satellite Communications Achievement Award

Michael Pelaez, K4KMP, #US233
Robert Sours, K9UO, #US234
Edward Campagnuolo, KN4ZAA, #US235

AMSAT Robert W. Barbee Jr., W4AMI Award (1,000-4,000)

Greg Phillips, WI4T, #115
Bernd Scholer, DL6IAN, #116
Michael Mark, VE4MM, #117
Gerry Krebs, N0JE upgraded to 4000

AMSAT Robert W. Barbee Jr., W4AMI Award

Ronald Parsons, W5RKN, #36
Christy Hunter, KB6LTY, #37
Robert Sours, K9UO, #38

AMSAT Rover Award

Rover	Call
None this time	

GridMaster Award

GridMaster	Call
#14	N0JE
#15	N8HM
#16	AA8CH
#17	KE4AL
#18	N3GS
#19	WC7V
#20	N9EAT
#21	KK4YEL
#22	K9UO
#23	K7TAB
#24	KE0PBR
#25	KI7UNJ
#26	WI4T

To see all the awards visit http://www.amsat.org and click on Services then Awards.

[ANS thanks Bruce Paige, KK5DO, AMSAT Director Contests and Awards, for the above information]

VUCC Awards-Endorsements for January 1, 2021

Here are the endorsements and new VUCC Satellite Awards issued by the ARRL for the period December 1, 2020 through January 1, 2021. Congratulations to all those who made the list this month!

There is a huge list this month. Perhaps due to the end of a Covid year.

CALL	Dec	Jan
WA4NVM	1544	1557
WC7V	1229	1232
N8RO	1075	1080
N9EAT	706	784
WA5KBH	766	775
AA8CH	718	750
W5RKN	732	739
K9UO	600	631
WD9EWK (DM43)	625	630
KI7UNJ	576	602
KK4YEL	504	589
AA4QE	408	508
N7EGY	457	502
KE8FZT	475	500
N5BO	401	500
KJ4EU	*404	471
WA6DNR	New	457
AC9E	401	451
N4DCW	425	450
HP2VX	377	406
VE6WK	355	404
WB7VUF	370	404
WA9JBQ	375	400
AK7DD	326	376
KS1G	325	360
KB9STR	229	353
KF6JOQ	303	353

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N3CRT        303     351
K5TA         202     302
KX9X         219     302
W8LR         225     300
EA3CAZ       New     293
AB1OC        261     264
KX9X (EN50)  175     250
VU2LBW       200     246
VE4MM        New     227
N8URE (FM19) New     186
WD9EWK (DM22)150     177
NA1ME        150     175
VE1VOX       157     170
WD9EWK (DM31)127     156
EA2AA        148     153
N4QX         149     152
WD9EWK (DM54)101     125
N2ZN         103     120
AA0MZ        112     116
N8URE (EL95) New     113
DL6KBG       101     111
K7RQN        New     109
DL7NX        New     103
K4KMP        New     102
W4ALF        New     102
KP4MV        New     100
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For some reason KJ4EU *404 was not on the 01 Dec ARRL list

If you find errors or omissions. please contact W5RKN off-list at <mycall>@<mycall>.com and I'll revise the announcement. This list was developed by comparing the ARRL .pdf listings for the two months. It's a visual comparison so omissions are possible. Apologies if your call was not mentioned.

Thanks to all those who are roving to grids that are rarely on the birds. They are doing most of the work!

[ANS thanks Ron Parsons, W5RKN for the above information]

New Mail System Archives Changes

AMSAT's new mail system was introduced several weeks ago, but a number of users remain confused about its operation. If you are not receiving email from AMSAT-BB or other lists from which you have received posts in the past, you probably need to register your email address at https://mailman.amsat.org/postorius/lists/ Please contact postmaster [at] amsat.org with any questions or concerns regarding this upgrade.

Likewise, if you are searching for archives of recent posts to AMSAT-BB, ANS (AMSAT News Service), the Keplerian Elements Mailing List (KEPS), you will now find those archives at https://mailman.amsat.org/hyperkitty/

Archives of message posts that date from prior to the first week of December 2020 are still maintained at https://www.amsat.org/pipermail/ for your continued reference. However, no new mail posts are archived at that location.

Any messages from December 7, 2020 and onward are on the new "HyperKitty" archive. Messages prior to that date remain in the old "PiperMail" archive.

[ANS thanks Mark Johns, K0JM, ANS Senior Editor, for the above information]

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****Watch Twitter, there are lots pop-up roves happening lately, and I can't keep this page updated with all of them.****

@WL7T: Is headed to Colorado for 3 weeks in January. Will be in DM69 most of the time but might be able to be persuaded to go as far south as DM66.

[ANS thanks Paul Overn, KE0PBR, AMSAT rover page manager, for the above information]

Hamfests, Conventions, Maker Faires, and Other Events

AMSAT Ambassadors provide presentations, demonstrate communicating through amateur satellites, and host information tables at club meetings, hamfests, conventions, maker faires, and other events.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, no events are currently scheduled.

[ANS thanks Paul Overn, KE0PBR, AMSAT Events page manager, for the above information]

Satellite Shorts From All Over

+ A great article about ARISS and ISS was recently published on the website, PHYS.ORG
https://phys.org/news/2020-12-earthlings-astronauts-chat-ham-radio.html
(ANS thanks Chris Thompson, G0KLA/AC2CZ, for the above information)

+ ON THIS DATE in 2004, the Mars rover Spirit made its landing on the Red Planet. In 1962, NASA publicly announced the Gemini program. And in 1920, biochemist and science fiction author Isaac Asimov was born.
(ANS thanks The Year in Space for the above information)

+ Of all the estimated 2700 CubeSats and other "nanosatellites" that have been created to date, less than 10% have had their own means of propulsion. This leaves them at the mercy of gravity and atmospheric drag, which can cause them to deorbit while they are still functional. In addition, they are unable to maneuver and adjust their orbit and get out of the way of other satellites and space debris. Thanks to Howe Industries and a breakthrough engine design (known as the ThermaSat) that utilizes steam to generate propulsion, all of that could change very soon. ThermaSat differs from conventional steam engines by relying on plain water and solar-electric power, and avoiding toxic, highly pressurized or even explosive liquids, such as hydrazine.
(ANS thanks Universe Today for the above information)

+ The UK and EU announced a broad agreement Dec. 24 governing the UK's relationship with the EU once the country formally withdraws from the European Union, a process known as Brexit. The agreement will allow the UK to remain in the Copernicus Earth observation program after it formally exits the EU. The situation is different with Galileo, the EU satellite navigation program, which is not covered by the Brexit deal. Those programs are "100% financed" by the EU. A third EU space program, is the EU Space Surveillance and Tracking program for space situational awareness. The UK government and private satellite operators based there will continue to have access to those services under the deal.
(ANS thanks SpaceNews for the above information)

+ The uncrewed Cygnus spacecraft is scheduled to depart the International Space Station on Wednesday, Jan. 6, more than three months after delivering nearly 8,000 pounds of supplies, scientific investigations, commercial

products, hardware, and other cargo to the orbiting outpost. Live coverage of the cargo spacecraft’s departure will begin at 1445z on NASA Television and the agency’s website, with release of Cygnus scheduled for 1510z.
(ANS thanks NASA and Southgate ARC for the above information)

+ Effective on June 29, 2021, amateur radio licensees and candidates must provide the FCC with an email address on all applications. If no email address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as “defective.” The FCC has already begun strongly encouraging applicants to provide an email address. Once an email address is provided, the FCC will email a link to an official electronic copy of the license grant. Licensees can log into the ULS License Manager System with their FRN and password at any time and update anything in their FCC license record, including adding an email address. Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address.
(ANS thanks ARRL for the above information)

+ Today’s moment of Zen: your motions on this planet during your lifetime have shifted the center of masses of both our planet and our solar system by minuscule amounts, and this, in turn, has gravitationally altered the motions of every star within the distance that light traveled during your life. While undetectable, your life and choices shape the motion of the stars.
(ANS thanks The Orbital Index for the above information)

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In addition to regular membership, AMSAT offers membership in the President's Club. Members of the President's Club, as sustaining donors to AMSAT Project Funds, will be eligible to receive additional benefits. Application forms are available from the AMSAT Store.

Primary and secondary school students are eligible for membership at one-half the standard yearly rate. Post-secondary school students enrolled in at least half time status shall be eligible for the student rate for a maximum of 6 post-secondary years in this status. Contact info [at] amsat.org for additional student membership information.

73 and Remember to help keep amateur radio in space,
This week's ANS Editor, Mark D. Johns, K0JM
k0jm at amsat dot org